THE Canadian Philatelist

Andrew King

JANUARY 1911

VOL. 1, NO. 10

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Western Collectors,-No. 9.

Miss Bertha Foster

In response to many requests from our readers, we have pleasure this month in presenting a portrait and sketch of Miss Bertha Foster, the talented young authoress, whose clever stamp stories have done much to make the Canadian Philatelist the leading philatelic magazine in British North America.

An ardent collector for years, Miss Foster specialized in Transvaal stamps, and in her school girl days had a collection which contained many of the old and rare varieties.

The charming subject of our sketch is the third daughter of William Foster, of Barham, Kent, and was born at Ripple Vale, near Walmer, (the birth place of General, Sir John French,) Ripple Vale, a large country house, charmingly situated in a beautiful garden with trees and meadows surrounding it, largely influenced her early life.

A sensitive, impressionable child, devoted to flowers and full of strange fancies, the country scenes amid which she lived helped greatly to mould her character. She began to write when quite a little girl, and won several prizes in story competitions conducted by various children's magazines.

In 1902, Miss Foster's first novel "The House on the Mine" was published, favorably reviewed, and criticized by the leading London and provincial papers. The St. James' Gazette, The Guardian and Literary World being among those that wrote specially favorable reviews.

In 1904, her father sold Ripple Vale, and the youthful genius spent considerable part of the following two years in the North of Ireland, along the beautiful shores of Antrim, writing and sketching amid its bosky glens and dells, and learning to know and love the simple Irish peasants in whose lives she was much interested.

"St. Basil," published in 1905, met with great success, was well and favorably reviewed, and a decided advance in point of thought, on the "House on the Mine." In 1907, Miss Foster decided to move to Canada for a year or two, and arrived in the Queen City of the prairies in August of that year Miss Foster is musical and used to devote a large amount of time to drawing and paint-

Continued on page 121

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Continued on page 121

ed vertically, nor have I found any other letters than the above.

These watermarked stamps are not listed in Messrs Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, consequently a number of collectors do not consider them worth collecting. Personally, I consider them distinct varieties, and the argument thatthe paper is just the same I consider is a sound one if such was the case the multiple CA watermark should not be separately issued because the paper does not differ from the single CA variety. The fact also that it is not official should not bar the watermarked stamps from catalogue rank, if such were the case, what would be the status of the Transvaal 1d stamp on Cape of Good Hope paper?

The only catalogue that lists the watermarked variety is Scott's (U. S. A.) and I append the prices:

1c. brown-red, unused $10.00, used $20.00.

2c. orange, used $2.50

2c. green, unused $10.00, used $2.50.

3c. red, unused $10.00, used $1.50.

6c. brown, unused $15.00, used $7.50.

15c. purple, unused $25.00, used $8.00.

12½c blue, unused $15.00, used $3.00.

The half cent is also listed, but not priced. I am very doubtful whether this value has, however, been seen on watermarked paper. All values of the "Big Heads" are to be found on slightly ribbed paper, but this ribbing, as is the case withthe 1850 issue, is very faint and hardly worth separating into a collectable variety. The thickness of the paper used for these stamps also varies slightly, but not to the extent that a perusal of Mr. King's formidable list of varities would lead one to expect. All these stamps, with the exception of the 15c value, which was current I believe until about 1902, had comparatively short existance, as they were replaced by an issue in a much smaller design. The first of the small stamps to be issued was the 1c in 1870, followed shortly by the 2c and 3c, and a little later by the 6c. The 12½c was in use until 1880, so it is quite common. As the low values had so short a life it is somewhat surprising to find their catalogue value so low. True they have made a great advance during the last few years but even yet they are not sufficiently appreciated in mint condition. The only value of this series that I have seen used as a "split" is the 6c, which halved, did duty as two 3c stamps.

(To be continued.)

Postage Stamp Colors

Mr. Bert Humphries, of Raymore, Sask., writes:—

"I wonder how many of our readers have any idea of the numerous colours in the worlds postage stamps. I enclose you a list I have made out during a few winter evenings. I may have missed a few, but all are distinct colours and can be verified by any standard catalogue. Other tints are, of course arrived at by different colours on various coloured papers, but I have not dealt with these "mixed ones." If any reader knows of any other colour, I would be glad to hear from him."

Green.—sea green, olive green yellow green, blue green, dark green, grey green, sage green, bronze green, deep green, myrtle green, light green,.

Red.—Flesh red, brown red, dull red, brick red, Venetian red, light red, orange red, bronze red, deep red, myrtle red,

Blue.—Gray blue, steel blue, deep blue, violet blue, dark blue, dull blue, light blue, lilac blue, pale blue, slate blue, greenish blue.

Brown.—Red brown, dark brown, violet brown, pale brown, yellow brown, olive brown, bistre brown, chocolate brown, orange brown, purple brown, lilac brown, black brown, deep brown.

Black.—purple black, slate black, gray black, violet black olive black.

Purple.—Rosy purple, dull purple, brown purple.

Gray.—Blue gray, pearl gray greenish gray.

Violet.—Dark violet, brown violet.

Rose.—Pale rose, lilac roes.

Bistre.—Olive bistre, dark bistre.

Claret.—Bright claret.

Vermilion.—Orange vermilion,

Violet.—Brown violet.

Orange.—Red orange, pale orange, brown orange, dull orange.

Lemon.—Yellow lemon, Olive lemon, orange lemon.

Ochre.—Yellow ochre.

Lake.—Carmine lake, magenta lake.

Olive.—Pale olive, dark olive,

Carmine.

Lilac.—Dull lilac, bluish lilac.

nave.—Dull mauve, bright

Mauve.—Dull mauve, bright mauve.

Maroon.—Bright maroon.

Buff.—Yellow buff.

Pink.—Rose pink, pale pink, dull pink.

Salmon, flesh, slate, stone, puce, chocolate, ultramarine, magenta, lavender, cream, drab, amber, terra cotta, cinnamon, azure, straw, plum,

The Canadian Philatelist

A Monthly Publication
Devoted to Philately.

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Andrew King, Publisher, Rouleau, Sask.

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chesnut, emerald, scarlet, white indigo, sepia, silver, gold, crimson, solferino.

One hundred and thirty-seven in all.

Penny postage between Australia, Great Britain and British possessions will be introduced May 1st, 1911.

Two 2 cent United States documentary stamps recently prepaid a letter from Madison, Wis., to Regina, Canada. The stamps bear the postmark Madison, Nov. 23., 6 p. m.

New U. S. issue.

The Philatelic Gazette for November springs a sensation on the philatelic world—The paper announces the appearance unheralded of a new U. S. issue.— It is true that the new issue consists only of a new watermark letter, but this is important to many collectors. Every collector is familiar with the type of letter employed in the "U. S. P. S" watermark. This has been replaced in the new paper just adopted by the government, by a thin single lined Gothic letter, so different in style from the old lettering that the distinction will be apparent at a glance.

According to the Gazette, all stamps printed since the last days of October have been on the new paper, and some have already been sent out to smaller offices which have sent requisitions for only small supplies. The post office and bureau officials do not attach to watermarks the importance which it holds in philatelic eyes, and it is understood by the Gazette that no record is to be kept of the dates when the new stamps were first issued.

Messrs Whitefield King & Co., Ipswich, England, call our attention to the fact that on the first consignment of the 6 cents ("Lord" Bacon) issue of the Newfoundland Guy Tercentenary stamps there was an error in the inscription below the portrait, in which the Z of the word Colonization is reversed.

This error was soon discovered and corrected presumably on a new transfer, for the stamps were printed by lithography. The first consignment must have consisted entirely of the errors. How many of the sheets of errors were printed is not yet known.

A well known firm of London auctioneers offered no less than 736 lots of stamps for auction last year.

At the sale of the Pomeroy collection in New York recently a Canadian, 1857, 7½ p. green, unused, with large margins (catalogued at $70.00) sold for $67.00. A Newfoundland, 1851, 6. p., scarlet vermilion, lightly cancelled, (catalogued at $75.00) $41.00. A one shilling, scarlet vermilion, lightly cancelled, (cat. $100.00) —$71.00, and a Nova Scotia, 1851, one shilling, red violet, lightly cancelled, (cat. $90.00) —$51.00.

The new British stamps are to be ready in May. The colors are to be practically the same as those during the last reign; but the design will be different. They will of course be submitted to the King for approval before being finally passed for circulation, and as His Majesty is a great authority on philately, he will doubtless take great interest in the matter, and give it very careful consideration.

The 4,000 inhabitants of the island of St. Helena, whose early issues of postage stamps are treasured by all philatelists, will be one of the famous spots of the world as long as there is any history, are complaining of the position in which they have been left by the removal of the British garrison which was maintained there until a few years ago The trade of the island is greatly diminished. In the days when the Suez Canal was only a dream and England's marine trusted to wind rather than steam, St. Helena was an important port of call on the voyage to the Cape. Now, steamers which go around have no need to call there. The little island appears to be considered of no special importance to the Admiralty. For an ideal residence for anyone with limited means, St. Helena would be hard to beat. Landing on the island for a few hours from a Union steamer the writer well remembers making for a little postoffice to purchase stamps for his collection. Eagerly a current unused set was procured, but all efforts failed to induce the not Not to be beaten, however, a over obliging postmaster to lightly cancell another set. second set was purchased and procuring a large envelope all values were stuck on, the let-

ter registered and duly addressed home. Some months later the missive was delivered, but the stamps alas; had been wofully obliterated. The cover still occupies the pride of place in my collection of entries.
fully obliterated. Thr cover sioner having nothing to do just now, has entered the philatelic arena. Town Topics, the capital's go-ahead-paper in an editorial says:—

"The Industrial Commissioner of the Greater Regina Club is at work on a new idea for advertising Greater Saskatchewan. The idea is to have an adhesive stamp illustrating the provincial characteristics of Saskatchewan which would be used by the board of trade public organizations and large shipping wholesale firms in every district in Saskatchewan. It will be designed by Mr. Henderson, staff artist of the Trail magazine, and well known through several of his designs which have been accepted and published by the Greater Regina Club, etc.

Each Board of Trade and organization will pay the cost of printing the stamp, of which the design will be an artistic and comprehensive one advertising the province broadly and a portrait in miniature of the main feature of the province. The size of the stamp will be about two inches by three so as to fit an ordinary envelope. The centre will be filled by an inscription "Saskatche w a n, Canada, the grain province of the World."

The four corners will contain symbolical figures representing Agriculture, Progress, Prosperity and Commerce, and the whole will be framed in a border of wheat. The entire design including the background will be elaborately artistic, carefully worked out by an able designer whose aim it is to make the stamp ornate and classical in the highest degree and a worthy emblem of the richest province in the fair Dominion which is named "Britain's Granary."

The stamp will be suitable for putting on packages and cases and sent out of Saskatchewan by different organizations, trade and business concerns.

No one city or town will be per'f in particular by the scheme, the object being to advertise all, impartially.

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(Continued from page 113)
ing, but finding it impossible to keep all up, dropped the latter entirely for her literary work. During her sojourn in Canada, Miss Foster has added considerably to her literary fame by the production of "The Rose Celeste," which appeared in the Regina Leader, and recently by her thrilling serial in "Town Topics," (Regina,) "The Fates of Three," Both of these considerably enhanced her reputation, and each issue was eagerly looked for by the readers of these two well known dailies.

Miss Foster has also written a large number of short stories, several of which have been published in the West, notably in "The Western Christmas Tree," "The Trail Magazine," "The Christmas Standard," and "The Christmas Town Topics," all showing a marked ability and a big insight into human nature.

She inherits in many ways her father's love of sport. Mr. Foster being a well known man in East Kent, a thorough sportsman, a great breeder of bloodhounds, and one of the best rifle shots in the sporting county of Kent. In Regina, Miss Foster, with Mrs. Malthy, of Manor, as a partner, won second prize in the open ladies double tennis championship for the province, later on in the season winning the open ladies singles at the annual Moosomin tournament. The following year Miss Foster, playing with Mr. Blythman, of Maple Creek, won the mixed doubles championship of Saskatchewan.

Miss Foster is a member of the Society of Authors, and if she had remained in England would have joined the Society of Women Journalists.

The subject of this sketch is known in private life as Mrs. Stephen Golder, wife of the editor of this publication whose valuable contributions to our columns are so largely looked for and quoted from in our various philatelic exchanges.

Miss Foster is spending the winter in Europe, preparing a new novel, which will at an early date be published in Canada.

A dispatch from Ottawa says that nothing as yet has been decided by the post office department as to an issue of new stamps for Canada which will bear the portrait of the present King. A new set will have to be issued, but so far no steps have been taken. The postmaster general has just returned from an absence of six months, and will now, doubtless consider the matter.

OUR LONDON LETTER

English philatelists have watched with considerable interest and satisfaction the philatelic revival which has been taking place in Canada during the past few years and have watched with pleasure the rapid growth of enthusiasm for our hobby which is tending to make the land of the Maple Leaf once more a stronghold of philately such as it was some fifteen or twenty years ago. This is all as it should be. In a country like Canada with its long winters, scattered townships and homesteads and comparative absence of latter day entertainment distractions, stamp collecting is an ideal pastime for the lonely settler and rancher, who although debarred from attending the meetings of the flourishing philatelic societies which now exist in the principal Canadian cities is enabled to replenish his collection and keep in touch with the chief events of the philatelic world by means of the mails, which bring him consignments of stamps on approval from all parts of the world and also his favorite stamp papers, both of which help to dispel the gloom of the cheerless winter evenings.

To this cause is attributable the Westward trend of philately in Canada and the fact that such cities as Regina and Winnipeg have become the stamp collecting centres of the Dominion in place of Montreal, Ottawa or Quebec.

It augurs well for Canadian philately that it can support two such solid and prosperous looking stamp magazines as "The Canadian Philatelist" and "The Hobbyist" and the the hobby a further stimulus one thing now lacking to give is a representative exhibition in one of the big cities which will serve to bring stamp collecting more promonently before the general public and thus secure fresh recruits. The World's Philatelic Convention for Winnipeg 1914 as advocated by the "Hobbyist" would be excellent for this purpose and it is to be hoped that the scheme will duly eventuate. If it does it is deserving of the support of all the Canadian stamp collectors and of those in other countries; which it will without doubt receive.

An important monograph on the "Stamps and Post Office of Canada" is due to make its appearance shortly and will make a valuable contribution

to the literature of our hobby. It has been prepared by the brilliant American philatelic writer, Mr. C. A. Howes, of Boston, which is a sufficient guarantee of its thoroughness. Mr. Howes has had access to many of the official records of the Canadian postoffice department and it is anticipated that his forthcoming work will throw much light on the post-... history of the country, which should in itself make highly interesting reading.

Meanwhile it would be interesting to know what is being done to make a History of the Post Office in Canada by the late Mr. J. G. Hendy, Curator of the Record Room of the G. P. O. which was acquired some years ago by the Canadian Post Office authorities. Perhaps this important work is being incorporated in Mr. Howe's monograph. If not it should certainly be rescued from the musty files of the official records and published for the benefit of the postal students the world over.

Canadian stamps continue to enjoy an undiminishing popularity with English collectors, particularly the handsome early issues, and many fine collections of these stamps exist in the old country. Among minor rarities the 12d. Canadian remains a prime favorite and at a recent London auction a fine used copy of this much sought after stamp sold for £55, which although by no means a record is nevertheless a very fair price.

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to the literature of our hobby. It has been prepared by the brilliant American philatelic writer, Mr. C. A. Howes, of Boston, which is a sufficient guarantee of its thoroughness. Mr. Howes has had access to many of the official records of the Canadian postoffice department and it is anticipated that his forthcoming work will throw much light on the postal history of the country, which should in itself make highly interesting reading.

Meanwhile it would be interesting to know what is being done to make a History of the Post Office in Canada by the late Mr. J. G. Hendy, Curator of the Record Room of the G. P. O. which was acquired some years ago by the Canadian Post Office authorities. Perhaps this important work is being incorporated in Mr. Howe's monograph. If not it should certainly be rescued from the musty files of the official records and published for the benefit of the postal students the world over.

Canadian stamps continue to enjoy an undiminishing popularity with English collectors, particularly the handsome early issues, and many fine collections of these stamps exist in the old country. Among minor rarities the 12d. Canadian remains a prime favorite and at a recent London auction a fine used copy of this much sought after stamp sold for £55, which although by no means a record is nevertheless a very fair price.

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